**Iowa Legislative Report**

**Iowa State Police Association**

**88th General Assembly, 2020 Session**

**Week 1: January 17,2020**

**Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists**

**The 2020 Legislative session kicked off this year on January 13th. As is always the case, the first week is comprised of a lot of pomp and circumstance required to open both chambers for business. The legislature is still controlled by Republicans as well as the Governors office. One major change from last year is the leadership in the House. Speaker Upmeyer (now past Speaker) stepped down from her role as Speaker which required a new election. Representative Pat Grassley from Butler County was elected as the new Speaker of the House. This change in leadership also set off a chain reaction of moves at other positions as well. Representative Matt Windschitl of Harrison County was elected Majority Leader, Representative John Wills was elected Speaker Pro Tempore and Representative Mike Sexton was elected as House Majority Whip. Representatives Brink, Huseman, Thorup and Zumbach are the Majority Assistant Leaders. Leadership positions in the House minority and the Senate remained the same.**

**The first week of session is normally fairly slow as most of the policy committees focus on introductions and laying out the processes that will be followed throughout session. Bill assignments will ramp up next week with subcommittees being scheduled shortly thereafter. Since this is the second year of the 88th general assembly, many bills that passed out of either the House or the Senate are still eligible for consideration. These bills will keep the same bill number as last year and proceed through the same process and newly filed bills.**

**The 2020 legislative session is also an election year. Election years usually tend to be more budget focused as opposed to policy focused. Although we will see many policy bills debated this year, I wouldn’t expect a high volume of highly controversial bills. The main buzz around the capitol seems to be concentrating on the budget and how it is divided up. Iowa’s budget is currently in a strong position with reserve accounts full and a surplus balance available. Even though the House and Senate are both controlled by Republicans, there is still a fairly large gap on spending philosophies. Finding a way to the end of session will most likely be determined by how quickly the two chambers can find a spending compromise.**

**As the 2020 legislative session moves forward we will try to provide more detailed information on the various policy bills and their status in the law making process. If you would like specific information on a specific bill, please feel free to contact us.**

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